

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 598

To repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and ensure respect for State regulation of marriage.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 16, 2011

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. COONS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. INOUE, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and ensure respect for State regulation of marriage.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Respect for Marriage  
5 Act of 2011”.

1 **SEC. 2. REPEAL OF SECTION ADDED TO TITLE 28, UNITED**  
2 **STATES CODE, BY SECTION 2 OF THE DE-**  
3 **FENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT.**

4 Section 1738C of title 28, United States Code, is re-  
5 pealed, and the table of sections at the beginning of chap-  
6 ter 115 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by  
7 striking the item relating to that section.

8 **SEC. 3. MARRIAGE RECOGNITION.**

9 Section 7 of title 1, United States Code, is amended  
10 to read as follows:

11 **“§ 7. Marriage**

12 “(a) For the purposes of any Federal law in which  
13 marital status is a factor, an individual shall be considered  
14 married if that individual’s marriage is valid in the State  
15 where the marriage was entered into or, in the case of  
16 a marriage entered into outside any State, if the marriage  
17 is valid in the place where entered into and the marriage  
18 could have been entered into in a State.

19 “(b) In this section, the term ‘State’ means a State,  
20 the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto  
21 Rico, or any other territory or possession of the United  
22 States.”.

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